

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03787 271515Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5394

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: FIGUERES COMMENTS ON ARAB/ISRAELI SITUATION

1. PRESIDENT FIGUERES IN HIS REGULAR THURSDAY AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 25 HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO MAKE ON THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. FIGUERES REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE ARAB STATES HAVE ALWAYS OPPOSED THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL ADDING THAT THE CONSTANT STATE OF BELLIGERENCY JUSTIFIED THE 1967 ISRAELI ATTACK TO THWART AN IMMINENT INVASION OF ITS TERRITORY. HE ADDED, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORT, THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CONQUERED TERRITORIES BY THE ISRAELIS RENDERED IMPOSSIBLE ARAB SURPRISE ATTACKS AGAINST ITS (ISRAEL'S) LARGE CITIES. UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, THE SOVIET UNION HAS PLACED ITSELF ON THE SIDE OF THE ARABS. "I BELIEVE THAT HISTORICALLY THIS IS A GREAT ERROR."

3. FIGUERES SAID HE WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE ALARM GENERATED BY THE MILITARY STATE OF ALERT IN THE US BECAUSE THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN "RATIONAL." FIGUERES REPORTEDLY SAID THAT FROM HIS STUDY OF HISTORY THE

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 03787 271515Z

LEGITIMATE FRONTIER OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL SHOULD BE

THE SUEZ CANAL ON ONE SIDE AND THE RIVER JORDAN
ON THE OTHER. ASKED IF HIS COMMENTS SHOULD BE
TAKEN AS AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF THE COSTA RICAN
GOVERNMENT, FIGUERES ANSWERED, "COSTA RICA'S
FOREIGN POLICY DEPENDS ON WHOEVER IS FOREIGN MINISTER
AND WHOEVER IS PRESIDENT." HE THEN ADDED, ACCORDING
TO THE PRESS, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION SUGGESTING
THAT HIS REMARKS WOULD BE READ AS ANTAGONISTIC BY THE
ARAB COUNTRIES, THAT, "WHENEVER THE ARAB PEOPLES ARE
RATIONAL WE WILL BE WITH THEM." HE THEN ADDED,
REPORTEDLY, THAT HIS STATEMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE ARAB
STATES WERE OF PERSONAL CHARACTER.
VAKY

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